

REMARKS

Claims 1-11 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, the specification, drawings and claim 1 are amended and claims 6-11 are added. Reconsideration in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

I. Formal Matters

A. The Office Action objects to the drawings for not showing the "adhesive agent" recited in claim 4. Figure 2 is amended to obviate this objection by showing an adhesive agent 6k.

B. The Office Action objects to Figures 19-21, asserting that these drawings should include a legend such as "Prior Art." Figures 19-21 are amended to obviate this objection.

C. The specification is amended for consistency with the change made to Figure 2.

II. The Claims Define Patentable Subject Matter

A. The Office Action rejects claims 1-3 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over U.S. Patent No. 3,711,632 to Ghirardi. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 1 recites, *inter alia*, a pair of clamp protrusions, each of the clamp protrusions being located at a position opposite to a position of another of the clamp protrusions such that the clamp protrusions are configured to clamp a cable by pressing the cable between the pair of clamp protrusions in a radial direction. Exemplary clamp protrusions 6c and 6f are shown in Fig. 2 of this application.

In contrast, Ghirardi does not disclose clamp protrusions that are positioned opposite to each other. Specifically, elements 60 and 66 of Ghirardi, alleged to correspond to clamp protrusions, are located such that they are not positioned opposite to each other.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that claim 1 is patentably distinct from Ghirardi. Claims 2 and 3 are also patentably distinct at least because of their dependence on claim 1. Withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

B. The Office Action rejects claims 4-5 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Ghirardi in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,627,817 to Kortenbach. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Kortenbach fails to overcome the above-noted deficiency of Ghirardi with respect to claim 1. Accordingly, claims 4 and 5 are allowable at least because of their dependence on claim 1. Withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

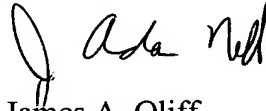
C. New claims 6-11 each depend from claim 1, and recite further distinctions over the applied art. New claim 6 is supported at least by Figs. 3-4; new claim 7 is supported at least by the drawings and the specification at page 23, lines 21-25; new claim 8 is supported at least by the drawings and the specification at page 18, lines 19-22; new claim 9 is supported at least by the drawings and the specification at page 23, lines 21-25; and new claims 10-11 are supported at least by the drawings and the specification at page 13, line 23 through page 14, line 8.

III. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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Attachments:

Replacement Sheets (Figs. 2 and 19-21)

Date: October 28, 2004

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Amendments to the Drawings:

The attached replacement drawing sheets make changes to Figs. 2 and 19-21 and replace the original sheets with Figs. 2 and 19-21.

Attachment: Replacement Sheets